the adquacy of staffing under Central Government ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalizing the staff and cadres of different services. The Commission is expected to submit its final report within a period of one year.

(c) As per the information available with the Ministry of Finance, the number of sanctioned posts of the Central Government regular employees (civilian) as on 31 March, 1999 was 40,67,049 against which the estimated number of employees in position on that date was 37,29,274, showing a shortfall of 3,37,775.

Employees engaged in anti-national activities

3363. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to get rid of employees who are engaged in anti-national activities; and

(b) if so, the exemplary dismissal proposed against the Indian Airlines Employees involved in smuggling of 10.261 kg. gold worth Rs. 46.892 lakhs in June, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government servants taking part in anti-national activities are liable to disciplinary action under the relevant service rules. Various penalties have been prescribed in the rules and these include removal/dismissal from service.

(b) It has been reported by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi, that on 27th June, 2000, a Foreman of the Indian Airlines retrieved a packet containing 44 gold biscuits of 10 tolas each totally weighing 5.130 kgs from one of the rear toilets of a aircraft which operated flight IC-882 (Sharjah-Dehli) in the morning of 27th June, 2000 while the aircraft was parked at domestic airport after operating its international flight. Subsequently, the employee handed over these biscuits to an outsider. On further interrogation, the officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recovered another packet containing 44 gold biscuits concealed in the rear toilet of the said aircraft. The employee was arrested by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and is in judicial

custody. He has been placed under suspension by the Competent Authority with effect from 27th June, 2000 and disciplinary proceedings are alos being initiated against him.

Recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission concerning senior citizens

3364. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission which benefit the retired Central Government employees who have become senior citizens; and

(b) the action taken by Government in accepting each of the recommendations concerning the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Fifth Central Pay Commission received representations for increasing the extent of concession available to senior citizens in rail fare from the existing 25% to 50% and also for extending this concession to all pensioners or at least to those who are of the age of 50 years and above. The Fifth Central Pay Commission considered this demand and recommended that the existing 25% concession in railway fare should be allowed to persons above 60 years of age.

(b) The above recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission was considered by the Government. It was, however, not found acceptable.

Modification in recruitment rules

3365. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Personnel and Training have issued instructions to all Ministries that suitable note be incorporated in Recruitment Rules so that seniors who have completed probation period are also be considered for promotion where the juniors who have completed requisite service are being considered;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that these instructions were modified slightly later on so that relaxation in qualifying service does not exceed by two years;